

September 24, 1993

ART MUSEUM DIRECTOR GIVES FIRST PUBLIC LECTURE

Robert P. Bergman, Director of The Cleveland Museum of Art, will give his first public lecture at the Museum on Wednesday, October 13, at 6 pm. He has chosen as his title, "Observations of a Medievalist on Approaching Paradise"--to declare his esteem for the Museum's collection of European medieval art, the field of his special interest.

While teaching at Princeton and at Harvard, where he was director of graduate programs in fine arts, Dr. Bergman often cited to his students works in the Cleveland Museum as supreme examples of the art he wanted them to understand. In his own scholarly work in medieval art, he turned to Cleveland's holdings for study and inspiration. "I want to help people recognize," he says, "why this collection is Paradise to a medievalist like me."

Beyond discussing some of Cleveland's medieval masterpieces, Dr. Bergman will compare the character and development of the collection to other American museum collections; one of his predecessors, William M. Milliken, director from 1930 to 1958, was a great connoisseur of medieval decorative art, and the two intervening directors, Sherman E. Lee (1958-1983) and Evan H. Turner (1983-1993), made important additions to the medieval holdings. This collection, like most of the Cleveland Museum's holdings, was built by the professional staff rather than by gifts from private collectors.

"Observations of a Medievalist on Approaching Paradise" is the first of a series of occasional lectures that Dr. Bergman plans to give at the Museum. He intends to discuss various parts of the collection and to teach--"my first and favorite vocation," he says--his audience about varied aspects of works of art in the Museum's renowned collection. His next lecture will be "Art Museums for a Democratic Society," on Sunday, December 5.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

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